

ROMANS
Lesson 27– September 28, 2013

**/Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES
a Christian Church
Rory Clark
Pastor-Teacher**

Good morning! My name is Rory Clark. My spiritual gift is Pastor-Teacher, a gift given to me by God to help you develop a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Sovereign of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. First Peter, Chapter 1, Verses 1 and 2 say...

/1PE 1:1

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are (the) chosen (ones...believers in Christ)...

/1PE 1:2

...according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of (God) the (Holy) Spirit, (created) to obey Jesus Christ and (to) be sprinkled with His blood (for the forgiveness of sins): May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

For those of you who are members of Barah Ministries but are not resident here in Phoenix, welcome to your homecoming! Welcome to the gathering of your chosen family...welcome to your chosen congregation. Welcome also to those of you who live here and welcome to those of you who are members of Barah Ministries who are scattered all across the world but are not able to be with us this weekend...may God's peace, and grace and glory be yours now and always.

All of us, as Christians, are aliens, because we are citizens of heaven, not citizens of Satan's kingdom, planet earth. Philippians, Chapter 3, Verses 20 and 21 say...

/PHI 3:20

For our citizenship (as believers in Christ) is in heaven, from which (heaven) also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...

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/PHI 3:21

...who will transform the (physical) body of our humble state (here on earth) into conformity with the (resurrection) body of His glory, by the exertion of the (enabling) power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

For those of you who are members, but not resident to Barah Ministries in Phoenix, you are not aliens. You are every bit a part of the one Body and the one Spirit which all Christians share. You are certainly in our hearts and in our prayers constantly. As Christians, we are a unified force. We are part of each other. We are one. We are delighted to see you face-to-face.

I hope this Homecoming weekend provides you with the opportunity to get to know a few of the members of the body of Christ that call Barah Ministries home...I hope you especially get the chance to get to know people you don't know so well...including your Pastor!

We are grateful to those of you who have traveled from long distances to be here, and we are especially thankful for your financial support that allows us to provide biblical lessons free of charge all throughout the world through the magic of the Internet.

Here is the agenda for this weekend's homecoming celebration...

/SATURDAY AGENDA 9:00am- 12:00pm <reveals>

Getting to Know You

Pastor Rory Clark
Lesson 1

Special Guest Tony LoGrasso
Lesson 2

Offering
Deacon Elliott Clark

Bowling 2:00pm – 4:00pm\

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/SUNDAY AGENDA 8:00am-12:00pm <reveals>

Concert

Jon Messenger - Nancy Elliot - June Murphy

Pastor Rory Clark

Lesson 2

The Gospel Message

The Lord's Supper Celebration

Closing Celebration\

So let's get started...

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ

Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

In the Beginning\

Let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song. The opening song is IN THE BEGINNING.

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

We're grateful Heavenly Father that You have provided us with the chance to gather together to share ourselves with each other...to hear the teaching of Your Word...to be encouraged by the sufferings and the triumphs of our royal family members...to have fun together...to gain new insights into Your magnificence and splendor of the other members of the Trinity...

We pray that You show us the value of death...that You encourage us with the newness of life...that You renew our spiritual curiosity...that You help us to take the offensive with our faith...that You help us to recognize Your hand in everything that happens to us...

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We pray that You heal those in the congregation who are experiencing health concerns, including this Pastor...that You free us from the pain of our infirmities...that You heal us...that You surround us with professionals who guide our healing and who teach us a new way to live in our bodies...

We pray that You provide abundance for those who are suffering financial need...

We pray that You lead our college pukes and our teen-age Cretans on the path of righteousness and that You teach them at a young age to value a deep, intimate and personal relationship with You and Your Word...we ask you to show them the value of not following the herd but standing alone with Your still small voice powering their thoughts and actions...

We pray that You help us to recognize the power that adversity instills in us...and that You help us to see the strengthening and the edification that always follow it...

We pray for Pastors all over the world...we pray that they remain encouraged in the face of the fact that their messenger voice often is not valued...we pray especially for Pastor John Farley and his congregation at Lighthouse Bible Church in Florida...that they may continue to grow in your Word and that they may continue to be edified by Pastor Farley's outstanding teaching...

We pray for our brethren throughout the world who are suffering persecution for Your name's sake...free them from the tyranny of their oppressors... we ask that You keep them safe and that you keep them alive...

Finally, show us how to enjoy this Zoe Life, this resurrection life, this eternal life that You have given us believers from the moment of salvation...

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...
Amen.

Let's begin our morning with a fun exercise which I call, "Getting to Know You."

<PAUSE RECORDING>

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/GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Let's spend some time meeting people we haven't met

<CONNECTING SLIDES>

/TODAY'S STUDY

Death is the Beginning of Everything

Turn in your bibles to Luke, Chapter 5, Verse 36...

/LUK 5:36

And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) was also telling them (the scribes and Pharisees) a parable: "No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise he will both tear the new (garment), and the piece from the new (garment) will not match the old (garment)."

/LUK 5:37

"And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the (wine)skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined."

/LUK 5:38

"But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins."

/LUK 5:39

"And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new; for he says, 'The old is good enough.'"

The Lord Jesus Christ is making it clear that the old way and the new way just do not mix. Ephesians, chapter 4, Verse 22 to 24 say...

/EPH 4:22-24

...in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

The year 2013 will go down in the annals of divine history as the year that

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Barah Ministries died. Yes. Barah Ministries is dead. At least the one we knew. It's a ministry that one congregation member described as a ministry "with a little looser legalism." From my way of thinking, it is an apt description of what was. This is the year that we at Barah Ministries acknowledged that the teachings that many of us believed and followed for years are false. It was a disheartening discovery, and it has caused quite a bit of disillusionment in the souls of Barah Ministries congregation members, including myself.

When things like this happening a congregation, many will take the logical approach. They will accept the idea that we were off base logically, and seek to move on. They will not deal with the emotions of the situation at all. To be disheartened and disillusioned is emotional...and it must be dealt with...hurt is emotional, and must be dealt with...it is impossible for us to simply move on. We must discard the old and adopt a completely new way of thinking and being.

The book of Hebrews is the chronicle of this sort of problem in a congregation. The Jewish Christians who grew up following the rituals of the Age of Israel were now filled with the Spirit after the Cross, yet they continued to go back to the temple rituals...not because they were still valid...they weren't...but because they were comfortable. The Jewish Christians of that day couldn't let go of the old to embrace the new.

We have a similar issue in Barah Ministries. The legalistic Barah Ministries is dead. It cannot be resuscitated. It must be treated as all dead things are treated. It must be buried. And there is nothing in our human nature that wants to do what I have just suggested. We don't want to bury it.

How often has it happened in your work life that there has been a change of management, a change of regime, and the first thing everyone wants to know from the new regime is, "Will everything stay the same?" People asking this question know the answer...things will not stay the same...but most people, who have just had their "cheese moved" will hem and haw, insisting, even though the old cheese is stale and dead, that the old cheese be put back in place.

When we realize that something we are involved in has lost its steam, most often we humanly refuse to let it go. Just as many believers in Christ

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attempt to polish up their sin natures to create a lifestyle, rather than abandoning that dead life to live in the newness of life, so many within Barah Ministries are of the mind that we can grow by putting new wine in old wineskins. We can't.

Look at Romans, Chapter 6...we'll begin at Verse 1 and go to Verse 7... highlighting Verses 3 and 4...

/ROM 6:3

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into (union with) Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

/ROM 6:4

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of (God) the Father, so we too might walk in newness of (the Zoe) life.

Barah Ministries as we knew it is dead. Turn to John, Chapter 12, Verse 20...

/JOH 12:20

Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast...

/JOH 12:21

*...these then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and began to ask him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." *

/JOH 12:22

Philip came and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip came and told Jesus.

/JOH 12:23

*And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." *

/JOH 12:24

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." *

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/JOH 12:25

“He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.”

/JOH 12:26

“If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

This is a principle that often we adamantly refuse to accept as human beings...that for us to grow, we must die. In the Christian Way of Life, **death is the beginning of everything**. Our Lord makes it clear to the truth seeking Greeks in the passage we just read...death is the way to life.

Imagine the teen-age girl who is on her high school basketball team...who knows that her fate is the bench unless she does something different... imagine people seeing potential in her to be a starter on that team and offering to help her...imagine her not initiating actively to get the help...why? Because she knows that if she is to bring the help into her experience that something will have to die. Perhaps she will have to put her friends on the back burner. Perhaps she will have to give up her obsession with text messaging. Perhaps she'll need to be a little less whiney. Change. You can't put old wine in new wine skins...yet when we have tasted the old wine of a routine which puts us squarely on the bench of our basketball team, most of us will not seek the new wine of a new coach and a new routine....we'll simply accept the old as good enough. Luke, Chapter 5, Verse 39...

/LUK 5:39

“And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new; for he says, ‘The old is good enough.’”

How about the young adult Christian who has resigned himself to a life of mental mediocrity, even while knowing that he is spiritual royalty? Why is it that scare after scare after scare of near miss disasters in his life are not enough to convince him to seek new patterns of thinking and new patterns of operation which would provide for his future success and security? How long does he think he will be able to “lick the dynamite stick” of the old self life without it blowing up in his face? Let's face it...we have all run a lifestyle of decadence hoping it would work...it never does... Luke, Chapter

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5, Verses 37 and 38...

/LUK 5:37

“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined.”

/LUK 5:38

“But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.”

Death is the beginning of everything. Many of us will lament the death of Barah Ministries as we knew it...many of us will beat our breasts as we witness the upcoming changes...we will rue their fates...yet death is the beginning of life. **Death is the beginning of everything.**

What will Barah Ministries become?

I am certain that I do not know the pattern for building a Christian Church. Thank God I don't have to know...Barah Ministries is not my church. It's God's. He has appointed me to be its spokesman.

There isn't a pattern for building a Christian Church. Each Christian Church is a new creation guided by a single Person, the Lord Jesus Christ, and a single set of principles...the mind of Christ, the Word of God.

I am certain that I do not know the way to coerce the will of a congregation member. Nor do I want to. But I am certain that the new Barah Ministries will grow on the backs of those who want it to grow...it will grow on the backs of those whose faith is active...and I am looking forward with eager anticipation to what we are about to become. Barah Ministries as we knew it is dead. But in God's plan, **death is the beginning of everything.**

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

In God's plan, **death is the beginning of everything.**

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Ladies and gentlemen, this is a bible.

Legendary American Football Coach Vince Lombardi uttered similar words in 1966 as training camp began after his Green Bay Packers won Super Bowl 1. Lombardi said, “Gentlemen this is a football.” You would hardly think that the World Champions of Football would need to be introduced to “the pigskin,” the prop that must be advanced down the field to score so that a team can win football games. Yet Lombardi knew, as I do, that human nature gravitates to complacency and comfort.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a bible.

If we were strangers to Christianity...if we were eager to know what Christianity really is...if we wanted to diligently comprehend what the Word of God has to say...how would we, as a congregation and as individuals, be approaching Christianity differently than we do now? Our God has made it clear to me that this is what we must do.

I have traveled throughout Gilbert, Arizona for nineteen years now. I have traveled the same roads in Gilbert so often that I hardly notice them any more. Recently a friend who was new to Gilbert was riding with me. He was the epitome of intellectual curiosity. “What’s that place?” My reply? “I dunno.” “How about that place over there...what’s that?” My reply? “I dunno.” “And this place?” My reply? “I dunno.” To which he asked, “Do you really live in Gilbert?” Great point. If you take someone through your home town, they will see things with fresh eyes and will point things out to you that you have never seen before because you have traveled the same roads so often that you hardly notice them any more.

We do the same in our lives. Complacency and comfort become routines. A young lady asked me a question recently...“Do you ever want to change and you just can’t?” The answer, of course is, “NO!” We can change. We may not want to change.

Well it’s time for us at Barah Ministries to see the Word of God with fresh eyes. It’s time for us to look at the Word of God in a new way as if we have never seen it before...as if we were seeing it for the very first time.

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In our old, stale, and legalistic approach to Christianity, the goal was knowledge of “the doctrine.” I’ve come to hate that word. God’s messages to us...His exact thinking...His mind...that are delivered through His Word, always go beyond the “doctrine” ... they always go beyond mere “knowledge.” In Ephesians, Chapter 3, Verses 14 to 21, Paul’s prayer highlights this reality...

/EPH 3:14-16

*For this reason I (Paul) bow my knees before (God) the Father, //from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, //that He (God the Father) would grant you (believers in Christ), according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His (Holy) Spirit in the inner man... *

/EPH 3:17-18

*...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in (unconditional) love, //may be able to comprehend with all the saints (believers in Christ) what is the breadth (how wide) and length (how long) and height (how high) and depth (how deep God’s riches in unconditional love really are) ... *

/EPH 3:19-20

*...and to know the (unconditional) love of Christ which surpasses (mere academic) knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. //Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the (enabling) power that works within us... *

/EPH 3:21

*...to Him be the glory in the church and in (union with) Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. *

The Lord Jesus Christ’s mind, which provide us with His messages through God the Holy Spirit who guides us into all the truth, are unearthed piece by piece and they assemble themselves into a story which we can’t ignore. And this year in Barah Ministries, the stories have become new. And they don’t mix at all with the old.

Paul had this experience. He thought Christianity was simply a better form of legalism. It took him years to figure out that Christianity and legalism

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had nothing in common. Well into his ministry, near the time he was about to die, Paul had this insight...Philippians, Chapter 3, Verses 8 to 11...

/PHI 3:8

*I (Paul) count all things (in reflection on my life) to be loss (a waste) in view (of a comparison) of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all (human accomplishment) things, and count them but rubbish (human excrement) so that I may gain (occupation with) Christ... *

/PHI 3:9

*...and (so that I) may be found in (union with) Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the (Mosaic) Law, but that (I might be found with a righteousness) which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God (the Father) on the basis of faith... *

/PHI 3:10

*...that I may know Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death... *

/PHI 3:11

*...in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. *

Paul made the switch at the Damascus Road from a confidence in self to a confidence in Christ. Paul died on the Damascus Road. And when he was resurrected from the dead, he began to live for Christ.

Barah Ministries as we knew it has died.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a bible.

As we sift through its pages, we will find someone...CHRIST. In the New Testament we will see four chapters which are narratives of His life...Matthew, Mark, Luke and John...we will see a chapter on the formation of the Christian Church called the Book of Acts...we will see a series of letters written by the apostles...and they will all have a common theme...CHRIST...they will detail Him crucified...and Him resurrected. Why? Because our Lord knew a simple, but powerful truth...**death is the**

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beginning of everything.

We have to come to the truth...and the truth is this...we don't come to CHRIST by teaching, no matter how great the teacher is...no matter how sound the teaching...no matter how many lessons in the teaching...no matter how many times we listen to them over and over. We do not come to CHRIST by knowledge. There are many academics who can nit-pick every aspect of the bible but who do not know CHRIST. In Philippians, Chapter 3, Verse 10, Paul let's us know the Christian's aim...

/PHI 3:10

*...that I may know Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death... *

Death is the beginning of everything.

We come to CHRIST by experience. In our last few lessons we have been studying faith and unbelief in Romans Chapter 1.

Unbelief is passive. Unbelief is indecisive. Unbelief is easy. Unbelief is for those who do not trust. Unbelief is for those who seek the limited life. Unbelief is for those who throw up their hands and hope that the Lord will make every decision for them...for those who are not invested enough in this life to put themselves and their choices on the line so that their choices can be judged.

Faith is active. Faith takes the offensive. Faith is ridiculous. Faith is placing your trust in someone...a PERSON...as Christians we place our trust in the PERSON of the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith expresses belief. If we believe in something we DO something about it. We don't wait.

Example...Acts, Chapter 16, Verses 30 and 31...

/ACT 16:30

*...and after he (the jailer) brought them (Paul and Silas) out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" *

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/ACT 16:31

They (Paul and Silas) said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and (everyone in) your household (who also believes).”

Believe...have faith...place your trust is active. If you want to be saved you have to act. You have to tell God that you believe in Christ. What happens after that? God saves you.

Ever wonder about God’s timing on a matter? ACT! Ever wonder about God’s will on a matter? ACT! God expects you to express your faith. Faith is active not passive. When you act, don't be surprised if you experience a death. **Death is the beginning of everything.**

I am looking forward to the life that is to arise from the death of Barah Ministries. And trust me on one thing...the new Barah Ministries will be anything but passive.

Let’s welcome up Deacon Elliott Clark to take the offering.

/THE OFFERING

Deacon Elliott Clark\

/Barah Ministries Financial Policy

No price appears on any material from Barah Ministries so that anyone who desires biblical teaching may have it free of charge.\

/OFFERING VERSE

LUK 12:48

When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

/Remember to give with the motivation suggested in Scripture

2CO 9:7

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (grace oriented) giver.

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/CLOSING SONG

You Don't Have to Beg\

CLOSING VERSES

/PRO 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.//In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

/DEU 31:8

The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed

/ISA 30:18

Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

/CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

THANKS
INTERCESSION
PETITION

And we pray that You continue to shape the messages from this pulpit that are an accurate reflection of Your unconditional love, Your person, Your thinking, Your work, and Your essence...we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, in Christ's name, Amen.

/Thanks for coming!
Thanks for watching!
Thanks for listening!

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